

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently amended) A node for use in a wireless network comprising:

a transceiver; and

a control to operate the node in an active state and a low power state, the node in a low power state waking at a timed interval to receive a particular type of packet that is broadcast periodically in a broadcast packet time slot, the node being responsive to the particular type of packet to switch to the active state, where:

if the node does not receive a message within a second timed interval, the node switches from the active state to the low power state; and

if the node receives a message within the second timed interval, the node remains in the active state for at least a third timed interval different from the second timed interval.

41. (Currently amended) A node for use in a wireless network as recited in claim 40, ~~wherein the node switches from the active state to the low power state if the node does not receive a message within a second timed interval~~where the particular type of packet comprises a polling message.

42. (Currently amended) A method for operating a node in a wireless network comprising:

waking a node in a low power state at regular intervals, where the regular interval is a multiple of a period at which a polling message is broadcast;

receiving at a waken node a message of a particular type that is broadcast periodically in a broadcast message time slot;

synchronizing the node to the received broadcast message; and

switching the node to an active state in response to the received broadcast message.

43-45. (Canceled)

46. (Currently amended) The method of claim 41~~40~~, wherein expiration of the second timed interval is indicated by expiration of a timer set in accordance with a maximum time for which the node is to remain awake waiting for a message addressed to the node.

47. (Currently amended) The method of claim 41~~40~~, wherein ~~if the node receives a message within the third timed interval is greater than the second timed interval, the node remains in the active state for at least a third timed interval different from the second timed interval.~~

48. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 41, wherein~~A node for use in a wireless network comprising:

a transceiver; and

a control to operate the node in an active state and a low power state, the node in a low power state waking at a timed interval to receive a particular type of packet that is broadcast periodically in a broadcast packet time slot, the node being responsive to the particular type of packet to switch to the active state, where:

if the node does not receive a message within a second timed interval, the node switches from the active state to the low power state; and

if the node receives a message that is not addressed to the node within the second timed interval, the node remains in the active state for at least a third timed interval different from the second timed interval.

49. (Currently amended) The method of claim 42, wherein ~~the regular interval is a function of a period at which~~message of a particular type of message is broadcast~~comprises a polling message that is addressed to the node.~~

50. (Currently amended) The method of claim 42, wherein ~~the regular interval is equal to a period at which a polling message is broadcast~~message of a particular type comprises a polling message that is not addressed to the node.

51. (Currently amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the ~~regular interval is a multiple of a period at which a polling message is broadcast~~message of a particular type comprises information indicating whether the node has a message pending.

52-54. (Canceled)

55. (Previously presented) A method for operating a node in a wireless network comprising:
waking a node in a low power state at regular intervals;
receiving at the waken node a message that is transmitted periodically;
synchronizing the node to the received message; and
switching operation of the node to an active state in response to the received message,
where the regular interval is a multiple of a period at which the message is transmitted.

56. (Previously presented) An electrical circuit for utilization in a node of a wireless communication network, the electrical circuit comprising:
at least one circuit that operates to, at least:
wake a node in a low-power state at regular intervals;
receive at the waken node a message that is transmitted periodically;
synchronize the node to the received message; and
switch operation of the node to an active state in response to the received message,
where the regular interval is a multiple of a period at which the message is transmitted.